ory of Delhi, three Blind Schools run by voluntary organisations are not permitting their students to undergo eye check ups.

(b) The possibility of restoration of eyesight of blind students after treatment could be ascertained only after a medical examination.

(c) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has directed the Blind Schools/Hostels run by it to get the Blind students medically examined for eye check ups and further treatment. In addition, it is issuing directions to voluntary organisations in Delhi to get their Blind students medically examined for eye check ups.

Legislation for the welfare of handicapped

7566. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation for the welfare of the handicapped;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether Government have asked the State Government to send their opinion/view in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Draft Bill "Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Bill, 1995" has been prepared.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to have in-depth discussion on the various provisions of the draft Bill, its financial implications and its penal provisions, a meeting of Ministers of State Government in charge of Social Welfare, Secretaries to State Govt./UT Administrations in charge of social welfare and Secretaries to Government of India of the concerned Ministries was called on 25th April, 1995. The State Governments/Union Territories have unanimously supported the Bill. They made a few suggestions which have been suitably incorporated wherever possible.

(e) Government propose to introduce the Bill in Parliament as soon as possible.

Memorandum regarding plight of children in SAARC countries

7567. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairperson, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude organised any march from Jantar Mantar towards the SAARC Summit Venue, Vigyan Bhavan, to focus the attantion of Heads of member countries on elimination of Child servitude and ensuring universalisation of primary education as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 3rd May, 1995;

(b) whether any memorandum was submitted to Government and Heads of State of various countries on the plight of 80 million children in servitude in South-Asian region; and

(c) if so, whether the contents of memorandum were taken note of by Government and the matters raised therein examined/included in the Agenda or informally discussed with Heads of State for SAARC meet; if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) There was a press report in the Hindustan Times dated 3.5.1995 on this issue. No such memorandum has been received by the Government.